

3: Indiana U. S-4, 5 1955 RG4 Estonia RG4
Vepses

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1d,

Sociological Background

ETHNIC GROUPS

141 The following description of the Vepsians' physical characteristics is based on the study of G. F. Debets made in the rayons of Shol'sk and Oshtinsk in 1933. Debets secured the measurements from 255 male and 94 female Vepsians and from 73 males of Vepsian and Russian parents. The largest age grouping fell into the 25-39 age bracket.

The Vepsians are, in stature, somewhat smaller than the Russians of the same region, whereas the Vepsian-Russian mixtures occupy an intermediate position (average height for Vepsian men is 164.46 cm., for women 154.22 cm.; for the mixed racial group 164.79 cm., and for the Russians 165.80-166.81 cm.)

142 It has been pointed out that the population in the two rayons mentioned above is the lightest in the whole of the Soviet Union in regards to pigmentation. There is a great predominance of light eyes among the Vepsians (men 61.6 per cent, women 55.3 per cent), whereas the percentage of dark eyes is very small (men 1.6 per cent, women 1.1 per cent). As for the color of the hair, reddish-hair in different shadings is predominant (among men 87.7 per cent, among women 95.8 per cent). The percentage of

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142 black hair is considerably less (among men 10.2 per cent, among women completely lacking). The lowest number falls into the flaxen-colored hair group (2.1 per cent of men and 4.3 per cent of women). The Russians of the same region are slightly darker than the Vepsians, whereas the cross-breeds fall somewhere between the Vepsians and the Russians. The hair of the Vepsians is usually straight and soft, as is the case with all groups in Northern and Eastern Europe. Body hair is only slightly developed.

There is little difference between the Vepsians and the Russians in regard to the growth of the beard, save that in the former it is a somewhat lesser growth.

141 The head of the Vepsians is a little shorter and lower and, consequently, more brachycephalic than that of the Russians. Average head measurements are as follows: head length--men 185.59 cm., women 178.58 cm.; head breath--men 153.34 cm., women 146.12 cm.; cephalic index--men 82.67, women 81.76.

The facial index of the Vepsian men is 88.40 (Debets gives 188.40, which must be a misprint), of women 87.32. The facial form differs somewhat between the men and women: the man's face is predominantly quadrangular (56.2 per cent), less rounded-oval (30.9 per cent), while that of the woman is mainly oval (49.4 per cent), less quadrangular (38.6 per cent).

141	Maximum head breadth.....	155	mm.	149.5 mm.
	Cephalic index.....	80.8		81.9
	Cephalic index on Saaremaa Island.....	80		80.9
	Total head height	225	mm.	213.9
	Minimum frontal.....	109	mm.	106.8 mm.
	Bizygomatic diameter.....	141	mm.	132.6 mm.
	Bigonial diameter....	109	mm.	101.3 mm.
	Morphological facial length.....	123	mm.	111.9 mm.
	Morphological facial index.....	85.8		84.6

- 142 According to these and other anthropometrical data¹ Estonians may be described as slender rather than massive, long-limbed, and broad-shouldered rather than narrow-shouldered, with rather small hands and feet, large chests, and

¹[see cat. 116, pp. 89-91] - - Analyst]

142 well-developed hips. A special feature of the Estonians is the typically low chest.

141 The cranium is mesocephalic with a tendency to brachycephalism.

According to some measurements there are among Estonians:

brachycephalics..... 47.7 per cent

mesocephalics..... 45.4 per cent

dolichocephalics..... 6.9 per cent

Facial indices of the Estonians indicate the following percentages:

long- or narrow-faced
(leptoprosopic)..... 38.2 per cent

moderate face form
(mesoprosopic)..... 36.1 per cent

broad-faced (europrosopic)..... 25.7 per cent

141 The nose is medium-sized and narrow rather than broad, and the women seem to have narrower noses than the men. J. Villems found these percentages of nose types among the population:

narrow noses.....	84.7 per cent
medium noses	14.7 per cent
broad noses.....	0.6 per cent

- 142 Concavity of the profile occurs among 38.6 per cent of the people.

The eyes are of medium size and the eyefold is median (32 mm.).

The epicanthic fold is extremely rare, being found among only about 2.45 per cent of the population.

Eye color:

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grey-blue.....	51.1 per cent
blue.....	24.6 per cent
brown.....	13.5 per cent

Hair color (according to J. Villems):

fair.....	35.6 per cent
brown to dark brown.....	43.6 per cent
red.....	0.6 per cent

Ash blond hair occurs quite frequently.

Their complexion is fair, varying from rosy-white to pale- or grey-white. Yellow shades

143 occur more often than dark ones. Blood groups, according to G. Rooks (1932), are as follows:

A-group.....	35.6 per cent
O-group.....	33.4 per cent
B-group.....	22.7 per cent
AB-group.....	8.8 per cent

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141 The most important study of the Livonians' physical characteristics is the doctoral dissertation of Fr. Waldhauer, Zur Anthropologie der Liven (1879), which contains the results of measurements and other anthropological observations made on one hundred Livonian men. According to Waldhauer, the Livonians along the seacoast have mixed very little with other people. They are experienced and bold seamen, self-assertive and free in their conduct. They are strong, slender, with strong bones and muscles. Weak individuals are seldom encountered. The reason for this is, according to Waldhauer, that the Livonians in their early youth go to sea and either die or else develop into strong and sturdy men.

The average height of the Livonian men is 173.6 cm. The tallest measured by Waldhauer was 187 cm. and the shortest 161 cm. Other measures were as follows: measurement while seated 89.2 cm., body measurement 66.8 cm., shoulder width 38.0 cm., width of the pelvis 29.9 cm., the length of the upper extremities 78.8 cm. and of the lower extremities, 98.6 cm.

● 142 The hair is generally straight, although curly hair is sometimes seen (18 per cent).

142 Fair hair occurs in 2 per cent of the cases and black in 4 per cent; the hair of the remainder (94 per cent) varies between fair and dark brown. The beard is strong, but its actual growth begins late; therefore the younger men, up to 25 years, rarely have beards. The color of the beard is brown or dark brown; Waldhauer did not meet any men with red beards. Body hair is abundant, especially on the extremities.

The eye color varies only a little. It is either medium dark grey (70 per cent), grey brown (18 per cent), or brown (11 per cent). The grey-blue color of eyes is very rare among the men (1 per cent), but more frequent among the women.

141 The head is medium long and medium wide. The cephalic index is 79.9; thus the Livonians may be classified as mesocephalic, bordering however on brachycephalic. The face is narrow and long and its shape is a lengthy oval; round faces are rare. The facial features are generally even, and the cheekbones are not markedly prominent. The forehead is high, the men's eyebrows strong. The nose is medium in length and usually straight. The mouth is of medium size, the lips thin. The eyes are big in 44 per cent of cases, middle-sized in 50 per cent and small in 6 per cent. The teeth are generally good; only 16 per cent had dental decay.

14/ Another study dealing with the anthropological features of the Livonians was published by E. Landau in 1909. Landau photographed 30 Livonians, measured 14 and made some other anthropological observations. His study constitutes a little addition to that of Waldhauer. Among the Livonians measured by Landau there were 9 brachycephalic, 3 mesocephalic • [142] and 2 dolicocephalic. Landau says that the color of hair is generally light or dark brown, but fair and auburn hair also occur. He also met a couple of red-bearded Livonians. The form of the face is, according to Landau, generally a wide oval. The lower chin is broad, the nose medium sized, straight, and with a wide bridge. Landau considers the Livonians, on the whole, attractive and healthy.

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SOURCES

Kajava, Yrjö, et al.

1928. Liiviläiset. [The Livonians.]
In A. Kannisto, E. N. Setälä,
U. T. Sirelius, Yrjö Wichmann,
ed., Suomen suku [The Finno-
Ugric Family], Vol. 2, pp. 189-
193. Helsinki: Otava.

The same post-ice age, early Eurasian race as that in Suomi-Finn- 101
land which once migrated from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with
local variations, had settled south of the eastern part of the Baltic
Sea and of the Finnish ocean bay. As it did in Suomi-Finnland so [44]
here too it received from the 17th century on east Finnish and Volga
Finnish admixtures, but to a much smaller degree. On the other
hand it received much stronger northern Germanic additions. From
this developed the Estonians, designated thus by their neighbors as
the people of the East but in the oldest Russian annals called Chudi,
like all Finns. They themselves formerly only called themselves
maamees, i. e. man of the country, and their people maarahwas,
i. e. people of the country. Today they like to speak of soome
(from som, dark, wet) as their home, in accord with Suomi-Finn-
land. Their territory stretches from Reval to Warro, from Walk to 131
Lake Peipus, with additional land in the area of Vitebsk, "poor land
with meager fields" (Kalewipoeg), full of swamps and forests. Be- 197
cause of their Finno-Ugric language, which incidentally contains
more than 30% Germanic words, the Estonians are still numbered
among the "Mongoloids," but they are neither anthropologically nor
ethnographically connected with them. They are rather completely
European. They are blond, have blue eyes, a tall and strong build. [42] •
Dark types are seldom encountered. Once because of the nature of 241
the land dependent on gathering, hunting and fishing, they became
stock-farmers and husbandmen under later influence from Lithuania
and from the Baltic Sea. In all branches of the economy the imple- 412
ments and tools used have preserved their primitive forms and the
materials of the wood age have largely been kept to our day. Fishing
is done with iron hooks and a red drag-rod /Schleppangel/ bound with
wool. A fork-shaped hand-plow /Zoche/ is used for plowing; ropes
are twisted with crude forked branches as in the Celtic West and in
north Germanic Sweden; weaving is done with small hand-weaving 286
tools and with little boards - alongside the pedal weaving frame;
until a short time ago wool was plucked, cleaned with a hatter's bow
/Fachbogen/ which is of exactly the same construction as the cotton
cleaner which is used from Egypt to China and which has been pre-
served in central Europe in the hat factory, strangely enough, only
in this trade. The old conical tent shape is preserved in farm kitchens. [348]
which stand alone or are joined to the bath house. It exists as a cir-
cular foundation of stones and a pole-roof. The present-day square 342
houses, similar to the Latvian and Lithuanian block buildings, and